

FURBEARERS

According to Iowa Code 109.97, every fur dealer must report the number of raw furs purchased from Iowa trappers and hunters by May 15 of each year. Table 3.1 shows the number of raw furs purchased from the 1930-31 season through the present. This information gives a retrospective view of the status of various fur populations not only historically, but from year to year as well.

For example, the muskrat harvest data show that while muskrat harvests are very cyclic. The harvests of the 30s are not much different from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Drought cycles can directly influenced muskrat populations and consequently harvest. During the droughts of the 30s, 50s and most recently 1988-89 and 1989-90 muskrat harvests were substantially reduced. The drought followed by extremely high water from 1990 through 1996, plus the sluggish fur markets are the main reasons why the last decade of fur harvests are the lowest since the 1960-61 season. The 1993-94 season did, however, see a 32 percent increase in the muskrat harvest while historically, the harvest was still low. The mere abundance of muskrats still allowed for this substantial increase in harvest. Because of the muskrat's prolific reproductive capability, populations responded quickly as adequate water conditions returned. In fact, 1993 brought modern day record muskrat populations back to the majority of Iowa's marshes. In 1997, after an extended high water period, "exploding" muskrat populations, and thus emergent vegetation disappeared due to muskrat "eat outs," the population has rapidly declined. In fact muskrats continue at modern day record low levels, throughout most of the marsh country in

the United States. Extended natural droughts and/or managed water level draw downs will allow marshes to revegetate and muskrats to increase accordingly. Unfortunately many of the wetland areas do not have the capability of "artificial" draw downs.

Mink harvests were higher in the 30s and 40s then remained somewhat lower in the 50s and 60s with the 1986-87 harvest similar to the 30s once again. Low numbers for both species in 1939 reflect statewide season closure except for the Mississippi River. A similar situation occurred for muskrats in 1947. Often mink harvests will parallel muskrat harvest but will lag a year or two behind muskrat harvest. That is primarily due the fact that muskrat trappers will take advantage of mink that like to prey upon muskrats when the muskrat population is high. The 1989-90 through 1991-92 mink harvest was substantially reduced due to overall lower fur values and consequently less trapper effort. During 1994-95, mink harvest increased primarily because of the fact that fur value speculation increased trapping pressure on mink because muskrats populations were so low. Recent mink harvest trends generally show declines, likely due to overall reduced trapping effort that is occurring with most furbearer species, and especially the muskrat.

Raccoons have been an interesting species with comparatively low harvests until 1967 and then noticeably increased harvests through 1986-87 when a record 390,800 raccoon were taken (Fig. 3.1). A quarter million raccoons were harvested annually for 15 years (1973-1987) and yet the population remained very high. It is likely that the high raccoon harvest has

kept raccoon populations at very healthy levels. Since 1989 the raccoon harvest has leveled off at near 100,000 pelts. This also is indicative of the suppressed raccoon fur values of the past several years. However, renewed interest and increasing pelt values were responsible for a slow increase in raccoon harvest in the late 1990s, with the 2001-02 harvest approaching 1.5 raccoon pelts.

Spotted skunk (civet cat) harvest levels indicate that their numbers dropped off substantially before the season was closed in the mid-1970s. During recent years the DNR has not received more than 1 or 2 spotted skunk reports. Since 1992 the only recent spotted skunk report the DNR has received is a roadkill in 2001 in Ringgold County. Spotted skunks should at least be considered a threatened, if not, endangered species, and perhaps even extirpated.

Red fox harvests have increased significantly since the mid-1960s, stabilizing between 12,000 and 20,000 fox pelts over the past couple of decades. The red fox population is making a very slow comeback in the modern day traditional fox areas of northwest and north-central Iowa. Active fox dens, however, are a rarity compared to the 1970s and 1980s. An outbreak of mange in the early 1980s and the suppressed fur market greatly reduced the fox population as well as the harvest during the past 6 seasons.

Similar trends occurred with coyotes, with harvest figures ranging between 6,000 and 12,000 pelts. Nearly 10,300 coyote pelts were purchased during the 1992-93 fur season. That is not a record coyote harvest, but is double the previous season. The 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons showed a decrease in the coyote harvest, but the population remains high statewide. The late 1990s harvest remained fairly stable.

Beaver seasons were closed in the 1930s and early 1940s. They reopened in the mid-1940s on a restricted basis and harvest has increased in the past decade to between 6,000 and 17,000 hides. About 50 percent fewer beaver were purchased from Iowa dealers during the 1991-92 season as compared to 1987-88. There has been a somewhat increasing beaver market for the past few years but the hard work and difficult weather conditions for trapping keep the beaver harvest relatively low. Increasing interest in beaver fur did bring a noticeable increase in pelts purchased in 1992, but that increase was supplemented by beaver hides that were kept frozen from previous years and dumped on the market in hopes of capitalizing on a higher beaver pelt prices. The 1993 and 1994 beaver take decreased about 25 percent and it declined somewhat more in 1995. The beaver population is high and they continue to generate more complaints from landowners over beaver flooding and foraging on crops and blocking tiles.

Several factors need to be considered when reviewing these data. Water levels certainly affect the harvest of aquatic furbearers such as muskrats and beaver. Freeze-up and season opening dates also have some effect. Higher fur values usually mean higher harvest levels. Weather greatly impacts the harvest of many furbearing animals such as raccoon, fox, and coyotes. Mild weather and open winters are generally better for all trappers and coon hunters. Fox and coyote hunters harvest more animals when cold, snowy weather exists. Very notable to the entire furbearer season in 2000-2001 was the fact that cold weather froze marshes earlier and record cold and snows made this season one of the most difficult ever for fur pursuing enthusiasts. Weather conditions did, in fact, reduce the harvest

of most furbearer species in 2000-2001. During 2001-2002 season weather conditions were nearly the opposite of the previous winter. These warm, mild, and comparatively dry conditions were conducive to better harvests of several species. The 2002-2003 season started out very mild but turned much colder later in the season providing great opportunity for furharvesters early in the season but the later colder weather slowed furharvesting considerably. With the exception of the spotted skunk and perhaps weasel, these harvest data and other qualitative information indicate that most furbearers have adapted well to the changing environment that humans have created.

Because of the squabbles and debates that occur between hunters and trappers over their "rightful share" of the resource, the DNR in 1975 began asking fur buyers to estimate the percent of foxes, coyotes and raccoons taken by hunters versus that taken by trappers. The DNR believes the information is helpful in determining the impact of hunters and trappers on furbearer populations. The breakdown by year is shown in Table 3.2. Fox hunters historically have had greater impacts on the population in years when snow conditions make "spotting" foxes easier, while in mild open winters trappers do better. Because there are considerably more fox hunters than fox trappers, in years with more snowfall, hunters have a greater impact on the fox population than trappers. Cold and snowy weather favors the fox and coyote hunters and dry mild winter's favor trapping enthusiasts. An extensive outbreak of mange in foxes throughout the northern half of the state has greatly reduced fox numbers, and has also contributed to reduced fox harvest during the decade of the 90s and the early 2000s.

Mild open winters benefit both raccoon hunters and trappers, again because raccoon hunters outnumber raccoon trappers, they have the higher impact on the population. With the advent of the furharvester license, in 1986 it is likely that the demarcation between hunter and trapper harvests will become less distinct as one license allows them to pursue both activities.

Coyote hunters take substantially more coyotes than trappers, but this relates to the fact that there are considerably more coyote hunters than coyote trappers. Also, coyotes are certainly more difficult to trap than foxes and raccoons, thus the generally lower percentage of coyotes trapped each year as compared to those hunted. This is supported by the information on Table 3.2.

In 1978 the Iowa DNR initiated a Raccoon and Deer Spotlight Survey in an effort to establish population trend index for raccoon and deer. Table 3.3 shows the results of the survey through 1998. Based on the mean number of raccoons observed per route it appears that the raccoon population has fluctuated considerably (Fig. 3.2). Low harvests appear associated with increased raccoons observed per route the subsequent spring. The spotlight survey index of the 1990's have been the highest ever recorded since the survey began in 1978. Reduced raccoon harvest since 1987 is most likely the major reason for the record high population of recent years.

The raccoon harvest accounts for nearly 60 percent of the total fur value (Table 3.4). A record harvest of 390,000 raccoons occurred during the 1986-87 season, but, by 1989-90, over a quarter of a million less raccoons have been harvested. During the last 3 years of the 1990s the raccoon market has softened

considerably and this will likely reduce pressure on the raccoon population. However, since 2000 raccoon fur values are showing some increase.

Historically, pelt prices of mink peaked in the mid-1940s and have fluctuated since then between about \$10 and \$20 (Fig. 3.4). Red fox prices peaked in the late 1970s at about \$65. Iowa's total fur value reached a record \$15.5 million in 1979. During the past 6 years between \$1 and \$1.8 million of fur pelts have been harvested. Historical season dates are presented in Table 3.5

The European Union, EU (formerly called the European Economic Community, EEC) has threatened to discontinue the importation of furs from countries still allowing the use of leg-hold/foot-hold traps. This has been scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 1995, 1996, and again in 1997. If this actually ever goes into effect it could mean the collapse of the U.S. commercial fur harvest and trade, as we currently know it. Oriental countries such as Korea and China are trying to develop a fur economy/trade and that could be considerably because currently the European countries account for over 75 percent of the U.S. fur market. International trade, tariff and governmental politics will determine what ultimately happens.

In late 1997, an "understanding" was reached with the European Union, the United States and other countries involved. The European markets would remain open to the U.S. fur trade. Over the next several years the U.S. would develop scientifically based best

management practices (BMP's) for trapping animals with restraining traps. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with 3 local trappers, was involved in testing 4 types of traps for raccoons in 1998. These were 1.5 coil spring with offset jaws, the #11 longspring, the #11 longspring with offset jaws, and the Tomahawk cage trap. Ohio, Wisconsin and Missouri did the same trap tests in their states.

Some controversies are now developing between the furharvester ranks and the Fur Resources Technical Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Some of the most used traps of the past (particularly the 1 ½ coil spring trap) have not scored well under the BMP process, particularly for trapping raccoons. The self-mutilation of raccoons chewing their foot or leg when in certain foothold traps presents challenges for trappers and the type of trapping systems they use. More information and research will have to occur before we can finalize the BMPs for raccoons. The BMP draft for trapping coyotes in the Eastern United States is currently being reviewed by professionals as well as the trapping public. Reception to that BMP has predominately been favorable.

While the "understanding" with the European Union is not a binding agreement, we see it as a victory for the continued legitimate use of the leg/foot hold trap into the 21st century. Hopefully the BMP process will also help us improve restraining foothold traps to allow their continued use long into the future.



Table 3.1 Furbearer harvest in Iowa listed by species (1930-present). Data for each year includes harvest for the winter of the succeeding year, eg. 1930=1930+1931(winter).

(Year summaries prior to the first year given are archived at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/>)

Year	Muskrat	Mink	Skunk	Raccoon	Civet	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Opossum	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Beaver
1977	257,237	13,037	3,588	264,367	7	22,831	1,640	36,186	36	12,011	1,900	3,432
1978	467,721	23,277	6,545	251,985		24,348	2,115	26,160	82	10,627	1,936	4,327
1979	741,403	31,270	10,022	308,277		17,629	3,093	10,978	122	7,745	3,274	12,498
1980	739,419	32,950	5,616	235,717		20,602	2,175	11,664	32	6,847	2,427	11,831
1981	521,945	28,455	1,913	291,227		22,385	1,710	18,730	16	9,860	1,946	5,705
1982	428,252	21,307	1,194	255,926		18,527	1,953	16,761	16	8,930	1,754	5,809
1983	464,793	22,245	1,152	261,875		21,257	1,185	16,179		9,636	1,298	8,563
1984	372,466	28,346	1,032	334,179		18,916	1,896	21,455		7,809	1,754	16,323
1985	254,412	17,116	1,861	270,805		16,346	1,114	16,296		7,858	975	14,931
1986	482,811	31,139	2,540	390,773		19,740	1,593	30,760		10,582	2,520	17,778
1987	515,611	27,712	1,198	307,587		19,666	1,091	27,623		10,348	1,642	13,509
1988	192,214	13,996	712	190,556		15,445	769	19,824		4,650	1,043	18,459
1989	73,415	8,293	245	118,653		13,359	374	8,114		4,073	468	8,706
1990	70,133	7,363	189	103,468		14,268	393	6,243		5,068	503	9,246
1991	91,206	8,469	211	110,342		15,463	429	7,411		5,213	572	8,943
1992	124,638	12,839	791	110,203		14,660	1,036	8,192		10,286	621	15,839
1993	163,842	13,946	643	118,463		12,986	836	6,243		7,313	571	11,788
1994	178,683	11,819	510	112,686		12,243	789	6,782		6,986	502	11,643
1995	158,241	20,392	786	118,136		14,136	948	9,781		8,462	614	10,678
1996	123,460	18,946	693	123,698		12,402	721	7,643		7,159	832	10,481
1997	113,621	16,832	649	149,492		12,896	768	6,012		6,992	796	11,122
1998	90,126	16,461	536	106,641		11,646	681	5,123		5,786	642	10,336
1999	86,998	15,931	528	101,233		11,968	631	4,649		5,231	597	10,108
2000	84,972	15,235	469	94,989		11,103	576	3,922		5,348	506	10,478
2001	78,867	14,162	398	143,206		12,349	529	3,361		6,702	487	11,287
2002	89,421	14,986	417	118,531		14,869	507	2,905		5,746	402	10,431

Table 3.2 Percentage of foxes, raccoons and coyotes purchased from hunters and trappers determined from furbuyer reports (1975-present). Data for each year includes harvest from the succeeding year, eg. 1930=1930+1931(winter).

Year	Fox			Raccoon			Coyote		
	% by trapper	% by hunter	% by unknown	% by trapper	% by hunter	% by unknown	% by trapper	% by hunter	% by unknown
1975	45	48	7	28	60	12	18	72	10
1976	55	41	4	28	66	6	28	68	4
1977	36	55	9	24	68	8	18	72	10
1978	37	58	5	31	61	8	17	74	9
1979	53	32	15	30	58	12	30	59	11
1980	66	29	5	33	60	7	33	60	7
1981	38	46	16	42	46	12	20	74	6
1982	47	45	8	35	53	12	25	69	6
1983	33	59	8	37	50	13	17	67	16
1984	49	31	20	33	41	26	26	60	14
1985	39	54	7	37	52	11	23	65	12
1986	59	35	6	46	49	5	34	62	4
1987	53	43	4	49	47	4	32	62	6
1988	58	34	8	49	46	5	30	67	3
1989	48	28	24	35	45	20	24	61	15
1990	43	46	11	38	55	7	28	66	6
1991	44	49	7	41	51	8	25	67	8
1992	40	52	8	45	50	5	36	54	6
1993	43	50	7	43	52	5	34	57	9
1994	39	55	6	44	46	10	33	59	8
1995	41	52	7	47	45	8	30	65	5
1996	44	48	8	48	48	4	32	58	10
1997	40	47	13	48	46	5	29	62	9
1998	46	48	6	46	47	5	33	63	4
1999	45	46	9	42	53	5	34	61	5
2000	34	58	8	38	46	16	31	58	11
2001	52	43	5	43	47	10	36	56	8
2002	56	38	6	48	42	10	32	59	9
Average	45.4	45.6	8.9	39.3	51.4	9.2	28.0	63.6	8.2

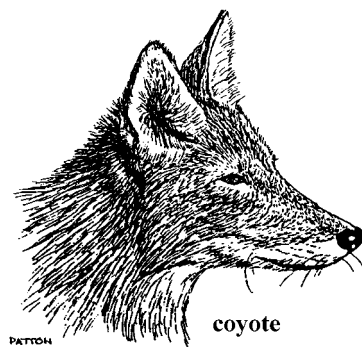


Table 3.3 Results of the Iowa raccoon spotlight survey with raccoon harvest and pelt price (1978-present). The spotlight survey is conducted in April each year. Harvest is from previous year.

Year	# Routes	Raccoon harvest	Mean # observed	Pelt Prices
1978	57	264,367	10.3	22.27
1979	83	251,985	11.2	31.18
1980	82	308,277	8.2	29.97
1981	85	235,717	8.9	21.47
1982	85	291,227	10.4	27.69
1983	84	255,926	12.8	16.54
1984	82	261,875	12.9	14.23
1985	84	334,179	11.5	18.94
1986	83	270,805	10.5	13.91
1987	80	390,773	11.3	18.22
1988	79	307,587	12.0	16.65
1989	83	190,556	14.8	7.96
1990	84	118,653	17.0	4.74
1991	86	103,468	16.7	4.62
1992	84	110,342	18.2	4.96
1993	82	110,203	21.5	5.36
1994	84	118,463	20.8	5.81
1995	89	112,686	21.1	6.89
1996	87	118,136	24.4	6.83
1997	89	123,698	23.5	8.26
1998	88	149,492	21.9	7.79
1999	88	106,641	23.3	7.21
2000	88	101,233	22.3	8.13
2001	88	94,989	24.3	9.26
2002	88	143,206	20.7	11.69
2003	88	118,531	21.1	12.16



Table 3.4 Value of important furbearer species taken in Iowa (1930-present). Data for each year includes harvest from the winter of the succeeding year, e.g. 1930 = 1930 & 1931 (winter).

(Year summaries prior to the first year given are archived at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/>)

	Mink		Muskrat		Raccoon		Red Fox		All Species
	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Total Value
1977	12.44	162,180	4.77	1,227,020	22.27	5,887,453	49.53	1,130,819	8,871,156
1978	14.48	337,050	4.49	2,100,067	31.18	7,856,892	64.65	1,574,098	12,516,946
1979	19.04	595,380	5.64	4,181,512	29.97	9,239,061	48.71	858,708	15,499,322
1980	18.20	599,690	5.88	4,347,783	21.47	5,060,843	42.88	883,413	11,269,768
1981	17.99	511,905	3.84	2,004,268	27.69	8,064,075	46.29	1,036,201	12,021,854
1982	11.18	238,212	2.18	933,589	16.54	4,233,016	28.85	534,503	6,235,053
1983	16.03	356,481	2.30	1,152,686	14.23	3,726,481	33.16	704,882	6,180,169
1984	14.22	403,080	2.88	1,072,702	18.94	6,329,350	25.24	477,439	8,574,748
1985	11.76	201,274	1.89	480,838	14.34	3,883,343	16.70	272,978	5,163,651
1986	20.79	647,379	3.39	1,636,729	18.22	7,119,884	20.73	409,210	10,335,629
1987	20.76	575,301	3.32	1,711,828	16.65	5,121,323	18.07	355,365	8,097,250
1988	22.06	308,751	2.05	394,038	7.96	1,516,825	12.15	187,656	2,602,695
1989	16.34	138,890	1.02	76,500	4.74	568,800	9.70	135,800	1,018,622
1990	18.26	134,448	2.08	145,876	4.96	513,201	10.22	145,898	1,074,761
1991	15.49	131,184	1.96	178,764	5.36	591,433	9.63	148,909	1,198,863
1992	19.46	249,846	1.58	196,928	6.36	700,891	8.43	123,078	1,579,821
1993	16.78	234,014	1.83	299,831	5.81	688,270	8.98	116,614	1,388,729
1994	14.13	167,003	1.95	348,432	6.89	706,686	9.86	120,716	1,409,848
1995	18.01	367,259	1.78	281,670	6.83	808,371	8.76	123,831	1,745,504
1996	19.36	336,795	1.56	182,598	8.92	1,103,386	8.43	104,549	1,661,687
1997	17.86	302,303	1.51	171,568	7.79	1,169,643	7.04	90,788	1,729,199
1998	16.05	264,199	1.66	149,609	7.21	768,882	8.21	95,637	1,203,362
1999	19.16	255,583	1.55	134,847	8.13	823,024	9.68	115,850	1,329,304
2000	15.46	235,533	2.09	177,591	9.26	879,598	9.86	109,476	1,378,689
2001	17.23	244,011	2.43	191,647	11.69	1,674,078	10.86	134,110	2,168,918
2002	14.96	244,191	1.85	165,429	12.16	1,441,37	11.36	168,912	2,069,896

Table 3.5 Iowa's furbearer seasons

(Year summaries prior to the first year given are archived at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/>)

YEAR	SPECIES	OPENING START TIME	____ TRAPPING ____		____ HUNTING ____	
			SEASON DATES		SEASON DATES	
			OPENING	CLOSING	OPENING	CLOSING
1996-97	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Apr 15		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31	Nov 2	Jan 31
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 2	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.			Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
1997-98	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Apr 15		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31	Nov 2	Jan 31
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 2	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.			Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
1998-99	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 7	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 7	Apr 15		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 7	Jan 31	Nov 7	Jan 31
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 7	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.			Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 7	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
1999-2000	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 6	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 6	Apr 15		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 6	Jan 31	Nov 6	Jan 31
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 6	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.			Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 6	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	

Table 3.5 Iowa's furbearer seasons

(Year summaries prior to the first year given are archived at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/>)

YEAR	SPECIES	OPENING START TIME	____TRAPPING____		____HUNTING____	
			SEASON DATES		SEASON DATES	
			OPENING	CLOSING	OPENING	CLOSING
2000-01	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 4	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 4	Jan 31		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 4	Jan 31		
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 4	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.	Jun 15	Oct 31	Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 3	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
2001-02	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 3	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 3	Jan 31		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 3	Jan 31		
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 3	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.	Jun 15	Oct 31	Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 3	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
2002-03	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31		
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 2	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.	Jun 15	Oct 31	Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 2	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	
2003-2004	mi, mu, ra, we, sk, ba, op	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31		
	be	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31		
	rf, gr	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31		
	ra, op	8 a.m.			Nov 1	Jan 31
	wc	8 a.m.	Jun 15	Oct 31	Jun 15	Oct 31
	co	8 a.m.	Nov 1	Jan 31	cont open season	
	spsk, bc, ot		cont closed season		cont closed season	

SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS: mi = mink, mu = muskrat, ra = raccoon, be = beaver, ba = badger
 stsk = striped skunk, spsk = spotted skunk, op = opossum, rf = red fox, gf = gray fox
 co = coyote, we = weasels, wc = woodchuck, ot = otter, bc = bobcat

*a) During 1966-67 through the 1970-71 seasons on state game management areas and the closed-to-hunting areas of Federal Refuges, the season will open at noon the day following the close of the duck season to 12:00 midnight Feb. 28.

*b) During 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons, Zone 1A is bounded on the east by U.S. Highway 169 from the Minnesota border to its junction with U.S. Highway 20, west on Highway 20 Highway 59, and south on 59 to the Missouri Border. Zone 2A includes the remainder of the state.

*c) During 1972-73 through 1974-75 seasons, Zone 1b is north of U.S. Highway 20, the 2nd Saturday of October through February 15 in 1973 and 1974 and January 31 in 1975. Zone 2b is remainder of state.

*d) During 1971-72 through 1978-79 seasons except for beaver water sets were permitted only during the open mink and muskrat season.

*e) During 1974-75 through 1987-88 seasons a more restrictive beaver trapping season occurred on the Federal Upper Mississippi River Refuge north of Interstate 80.

*f) Weasel season was closed during 1976-77 season; reopened 1988-89 season.

*g) Spotted skunk season was continuous closed season from 1976-77 through the present.

*h) Bobcat season officially listed as closed in 1985-86 regulations, however, it was essentially protected in prior years.

*i) Permanent woodchuck hunting rule season dates of June 15 to October 31 established with 1976-77 season.

*j) First restricted coyote trapping season.

Figure 3.1 Iowa raccoon & red fox harvest, (1930 - present)

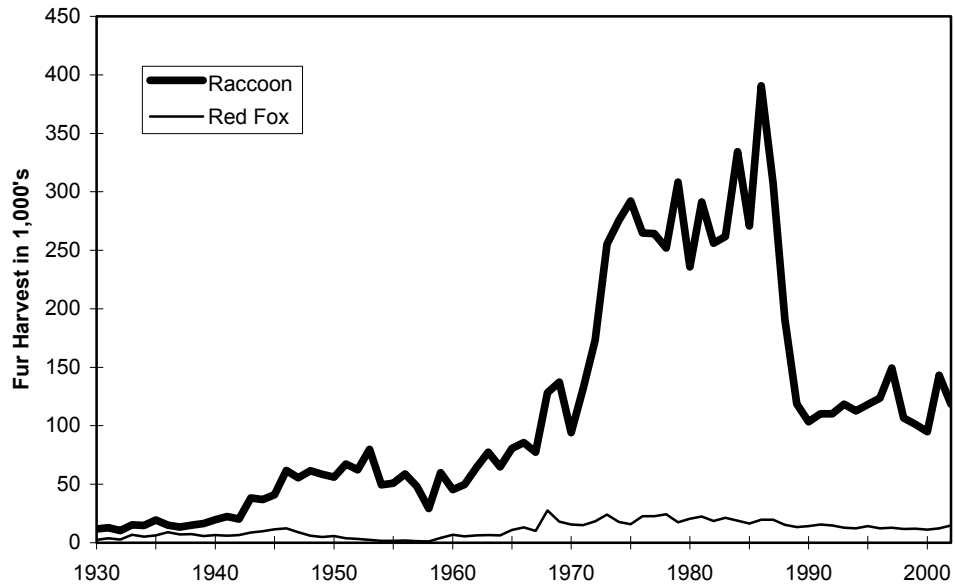


Figure 3.2 Relationship of the spotlight index and raccoon harvest.

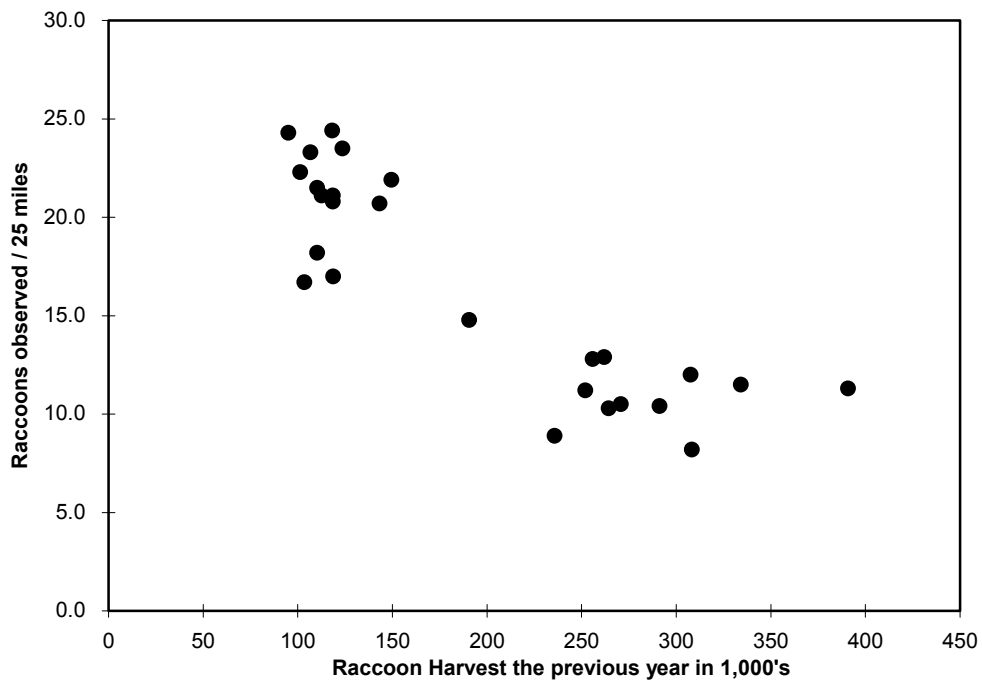


Figure 3.3 Pelt price fluctuations of important Iowa furbearers.

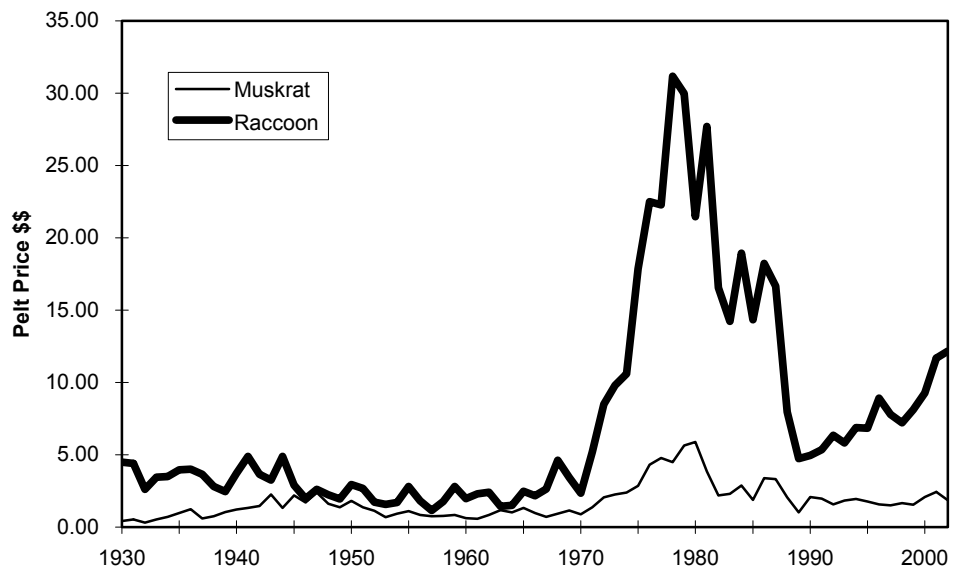


Figure 3.4 Pelt price fluctuations of mink and fox, and the value of Iowa furs.

